

DECLARATION OF RICHARD W. DODGE

1. My name is Richard W. Dodge. I am a self-employed architect, and my office is located at 1940 SE 2nd Street, Pompano Beach, Florida, 33060. I reside at 950 NE 9th Avenue, Pompano Beach, Florida, 33060.

2. I have been a resident of the Miami area for over 33 years, and I am submitting this Declaration to provide the Federal Communications Commission with my testimony concerning the contributions to the community's welfare made by WHFT-TV, Miami, during its last license term (February 1, 1987 to February 1, 1992).

3. I was a volunteer executive director of a residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation program called the Turning Point from 1979 through 1991. Turning Point residents are people of all ages and races who have succumbed to alcohol or drug addiction, and who are attempting, in a residential and supportive setting, to rid themselves of their addiction and get their lives back in order. I was an Elder in the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church and a member of the Liberty Singers, a singing group which performs at the maximum security womens' prison, Broward Correctional Institute. I am also the founder of Christian Addicts Anonymous (CAA), an organization which follows, we believe more closely, the original methods of Alcoholics Anonymous.

4. During the license term I appeared on "Praise the Lord-- South Florida" and on "Feedback" on a total of three different occasions. I appeared on "Feedback" in February of 1989, and on

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"Praise the Lord--South Florida" in February, 1989 and in July, 1990. On each occasion I was interviewed by the program host about my experiences with the problems of drug and alcohol abuse, and concerning the severity of the problem here in the Miami area. On each occasion I talked for approximately 30 minutes, and was able to share with the host and audience what the needs, objectives and challenges were to people who were addicted, and what we did, and could do, to address these problems. On two occasions, I brought residents from Turning Point with me, who shared their experiences. It was extremely important, in my mind, to show those who might have a drug and/or alcohol addiction problem and be watching the program that there is hope for success.

5. Each time I appeared on channel 45 I not only discussed the problems of alcohol and drug addiction in a substantive way, and in a way that I felt was needed to inform people about the problems and challenges of the addicted, I was also allowed, even encouraged, to invite people to come to us for help, and to exhort people to help us by becoming volunteers with our programs or by sending us financial contributions. The name of our organization and our telephone number was flashed on the screen repeatedly during our time on the program.

6. Each time after I appeared on channel 45 I noticed an immediate response from people who watched the program. After each program I received calls from pastors and church workers who were ministering to people with addiction problems, and several mothers called with sons who had addiction problems and needed information

or help. We normally don't ask people who enter our program how they found out about us, but several have told me that they heard about our program and were encouraged to seek help after seeing us on channel 45. Appearing on channel 45 gave our program some needed publicity, and opened doors for us in the community. I have never had an opportunity to appear on a television program on any other station which discussed these issues or what our programs could do to help the addicted.

7. Suspicion between the races and various ethnic and linguistic groups is one of the biggest problems in the South Florida area. One of the things that impressed me about the programs on which I appeared is the fact that I was encouraged to bring members of our programs who were of different races and ethnic backgrounds. The host on the show seemed to encourage the appearance of a variety of races and ethnic backgrounds on the program, to show not only that our program served all in need in the Miami area, but also to show that such cooperative programs worked, and that collaborative programs among people of different races and ethnic and linguistic backgrounds worked.

8. WHFT also has a very good reputation in the community for serving community needs. I know of certain people, often shut-ins, who watch nothing else but channel 45. WHFT has positive impacts in the community in a variety of ways. For example, I have attended meetings of Christian Addicts Anonymous in the Miami area in which recovering alcoholics have testified that the programming they watched on WHFT helped them recover from their addictions. In

two or three instances, I recall that people at CAA meetings related personal experiences in which they felt that a program that they watched on channel 45 was the event that put them on the road to recovery from their addiction.

SUPPORTING DECLARATION

I, Richard W. Dodge, hereby declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Florida and the United States of America that the forgoing "Declaration of Richard W. Dodge," consisting of four (4) pages, is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Executed this 5th day of AUGUST, 1993.


Richard W. Dodge

DECLARATION OF EARNEST RAYMOND HUGHES

1. My name is Earnest Raymond ("Ray") Hughes. I am a certified counselor, and the founder and Program Director of Community Christian Counseling, Inc. ("CCCI"), a non-profit community based organization chartered in 1968 to provide private and group counseling services to chemically dependent individuals and their families. My business address is 3475 Sheridan Street, Sheridan Executive Centre, Suite 215-D, Hollywood, Florida 33021. My residence address is 100 Ashbury Road, Apt. 104, Carriage Hills, Hollywood, Florida 33024. I have lived in Hollywood, Florida, since 1973, and in the Miami area generally since 1953. I am submitting this declaration to provide the Federal Communications Commission my testimony concerning the contribution to the community welfare that Television Station WHFT (Channel 45) made on behalf of CCCI during the period 1986 through 1991.

2. My principal involvement with WHFT between 1986 and 1991 was through my work with CCCI. During that period, I appeared several times as a guest on the station's talk show "Praise the Lord South Florida" and I also appeared as a guest on its public affairs show "Feedback," where I participated in a panel discussion concerning chemical dependency. With regard to this latter program, I was particularly impressed during my appearance with the fact that the panel presented a diverse cross-section of views regarding the causes and treatment of chemical addictions. This helped to educate the public about

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the problem and also provided valuable information regarding the various treatment services available in the community. As a result of my appearance on the station, CCCI received dozens of letters and calls requesting information about its services, and a number of people joined CCCI's counseling program.

3. I also was contacted by the station during that period to solicit my input regarding community issues, and to determine whether I could recommend panelists to appear on the station to address those issues. The station did not limit these inquiries to the topic of chemical dependency, my area of expertise, but also sought my input regarding other problems and needs of the community ranging from children's issues to mental health concerns. I was impressed by the station's efforts to identify local needs and concerns by soliciting a variety of representative viewpoints.

4. In my opinion, WHFT served the public welfare during that period through its programming efforts as well as its non-broadcast activities. During the period 1986 through 1991, I watched the station on a regular basis and became familiar with its programming. Two public affairs shows that I felt were particularly responsive to the community's needs were "Feedback" and "Praise the Lord." As noted above, both of these interview-style programs were well received and responded to community needs and problems by addressing a wide variety of issues from differing perspectives. Moreover, they benefitted the community

by letting people know about free programs and services, and by consistently reaching across class and ethnic boundaries to educate people who otherwise might not learn about such services. The programs also helped to publicize a variety of local ministries and community based organizations, including governmental and private agencies, that otherwise would not have received such exposure. This is particularly true with respect to local ministries that have traditionally served the area's minority community. WHFT provided those ministries with a generous amount of time and exposure and, in my opinion, served as a community leader in terms of its responsiveness to minority needs and issues. Through these efforts, WHFT served the public by publicizing organizations that dealt with a whole spectrum of community problems and concerns.

5. In my opinion, WHFT also served the community welfare during that period through its non-broadcast activities in connection with its "His Hand Extended" ("HHE") ministry and its "Prayer Line." HHE was operated by the station as a free, local "clearinghouse" for the collection and distribution of food, clothing and other items to needy members of the community. I donated food and other materials to HHE for distribution to the needy, and I referred people to the ministry who were in need of clothing and other essentials. The ministry was promoted from time to time by the station during its programming, and I spoke with others in the community about its good works, including the members of a local ministerial association with which I am

associated. It was my opinion and the opinion of others in the community that the station enjoyed a positive reputation for public service through its efforts with the HHE ministry.

6. The Prayer Line was a free, 24-hour community based telephone line that provided immediate support and assistance to individuals in crisis situations. CCCI often gave people in its counseling program the station's Prayer Line telephone number as a good point of contact for free, short-term assistance during times of crisis. CCCI also received referrals from the Prayer Line as the result of calls that were made to the telephone line by individuals in need of counseling for chemical dependency. In my opinion, WHFT provided a valuable service to the citizens of Miami and the surrounding area through its Prayer Line.

SPONSORING DECLARATION

I, Earnest Raymond Hughes, hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing testimony is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Executed this 1st day of August, 1993.


Earnest Raymond Hughes

DECLARATION OF DR. FRANKLIN M. JACOBS

1. My name is Dr. Franklin M. Jacobs. I am the president and chief executive officer of the Miami Rescue Mission, Inc., located at 2010 NW 1st Avenue, Miami, Florida, 33127. I reside at 12125 SW 49th Street, Miami, Florida.

2. I have been a resident of the Miami area since 1966, and I am submitting this Declaration to provide the Federal Communications Commission with my testimony concerning the contributions to the community's welfare made by WHFT-TV, Miami, during its last license term (February 1, 1987 to February 1, 1992).

3. The Miami Rescue Mission is a nonprofit, interdenominational religious organization which runs a comprehensive shelter program in downtown Miami. We provide shelter for homeless men, women and children, and emergency food, clothing and shelter services. We have a long-term recovery program for men, women and children, and we offer counseling, educational services, spiritual guidance, job training and placement, recovery services for drug and alcohol addiction and counseling and other services for abused and battered women and children. The Rescue Mission has sheltered approximately 300 people per night and serves almost 300,000 meals a year. At any one time we average 135-140 people who are enrolled in our long term program, which takes eight months to a year. All in all, the Rescue Mission is probably the largest and most comprehensive program for the homeless in the Southeastern United States.

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Reporter A. W. Wagner

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4. I have been a guest appearing on several programs on WHFT during the license term. For example, I have appeared as a guest on the "Praise the Lord--South Florida" program on the average of twice annually during the license term. On one program on which I appeared in 1989, called "Feedback," I was interviewed about the national problem of the homeless. I remember that our mission was hosting an international conference on homelessness at the time, and I was on the program with a national leader on the homeless issue and three Miami area residents representing organizations providing services to the homeless in the Miami area. For about a half an hour we discussed the causes and reasons for homelessness, the statistics showing how many were homeless, and, most importantly, what our respective organizations and agencies were doing to respond to the problem and alleviate the pain and suffering caused by homelessness.

5. As a guest on the "Praise the Lord--South Florida" program I was always interviewed for about a half an hour about the problems of the homeless. I usually discussed the causes of homelessness and what the Rescue Mission and other agencies and ministries were doing to respond to the issue. I was always encouraged to mention our Mission's special projects and services, such as our Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday dinner programs. I was also encouraged by the program's hosts to discuss what was being done to respond to the problem, and what individuals could do to help. I always challenged people to get involved, in their fraternal organizations, social clubs and churches, in projects to

reach out to the hurting people in the community. At times during my appearance on these programs the name of our program and our telephone number would appear on the screen.

6. Each time I appeared on WHFT I received an immediate response. Sometimes by the time I would get back to the office after appearing on a live show I would have started to receive calls from people asking how they could get involved. We also received an upsurge in the number of people who called our trucks to donate goods and make in-kind donations, and we always had a large increase in financial contributions as well. Channel 45 also provides a 24-hour prayer line, where people can call in to have people listen to their problems and pray with them. On occasion we have had letters or calls from people who are manning the prayer lines at channel 45 who gave us the name of a person who called asking for and needed some sort of help. We were asked to follow up by making a contact. When we can help, we do.

7. Although I have appeared on programs broadcast on other Miami area television stations, I have appeared on channel 45 more times than on any other station. No other station, with the exception of a short interview broadcast on channel 17, ever covered the homeless problem in any depth, or discussed the complexity of the homeless problem so substantively. The other area television stations might cover special events at the Rescue Mission, usually following a news story about the homeless, or broadcast a holiday feature about our Thanksgiving meal for the homeless, but the segment was usually a minute or less in length.

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No other station gave so much time and attention to the problem of homelessness in the Miami area, and none provided so much information about the programs and resources in the community to combat homelessness.

8. I am a regular watcher of channel 45 programming, and channel 45 is one of the few channels approved for viewing in our residential program. We allow our residents to watch only selected sports programs, special events, our videos, and WHFT. We allow our residents to watch WHFT because most of our residents are fighting life controlling problems--chemical abuse, etc. Our resident's salvation from these problems requires that he or she learn to control their impulses. The usual television fare, particularly commercials, is often detrimental to recovery--we want positive, upbeat, hopeful programming presented. A person recovering from an alcohol addiction is likely to be driven slightly crazy by a commercial where a guy is drinking an ice cold beer in a bar with beautiful women hanging off him. We find that channel 45 helps our residents with what we call "mind renewal."

9. During the license term I have watched "Praise the Lord--South Florida" and "Feedback" on a regular basis. These programs deal with the real problems and needs of the community, but do so with an entirely different outlook. I've seen these programs dealing with child and spousal abuse, with the problems of the homeless and the unemployed, and with how people deal with sudden unemployment. The treatment WHFT gave these issues was different from that given the issues by other stations in two important

respects--channel 45 seemed more sensitive to the spiritual and moral dimensions of the problem, and the spiritual issues in peoples' lives as they coped with their problems. Secondly, and more importantly, WHFT programming was always upbeat in that for every problem discussed on the program the emphasis was on the programs, agencies, ministries, and resources in the community that were available to assist in resolving the problem.

10. I also know that channel 45 programming has had a real immediate and dramatic impact on the lives of several people whom I know or whom I have met. One young man I know had just moved back in with his father and was feeling depressed and considering suicide. His father kept channel 45 on all the time, which angered the young man. One day this young man was so depressed he was considering jumping out the window at his apartment building when he noticed a young man on a program broadcast on channel 45 who also confessed to being depressed and suicidal, but who offered this young man counseling and hope. The young man was profoundly affected by the program, and straightened his life out. Another young man I know of testified during a chapel program that he was on drugs and that his life was in ruin, but that he responded to an appeal on channel 45 to clean up his life, and he has now turned his life around and is a manager at a local Bennigan's. Another young man I've met told me that he was unemployed and discouraged, and received encouragement and new hope of receiving a job from programming he saw on WHFT.

11. I often hear people say that channel 45 serves the real needs of the Miami community. I know for example that the station has an outreach center at the station studio in Broward county, and that a great many people receive emergency food and clothing from the "His Hand Extended" ministry when those who survive on disability pensions or SSI run short of funds at the end of the month. That ministry is a great help to many people. It is also a great witness. Many of our donors mention that channel 45 is a real blessing to the community, and an encourages and challenges them to become personally involved in helping people. I am also aware that the station is a very important part in the lives of many people whom I visit who are elderly or shut-ins. Often these people watch channel 45 almost exclusively. They don't want to watch the violence and sexuality on the soap operas, and they like the cheerful, upbeat character of WHFT's programming. Many, because of the number of identifiable personalities on WHFT programming, think of channel 45 as a companion. The station almost becomes family.

12. I also think that channel 45 is a healing influence in the community. As many know, the South Florida area is divided along racial and ethnic lines. I believe that channel 45 makes a conscious effort to show all races working together for a common goal, and stresses that the station serves all races and ethnic groups. African-Americans and Hispanics are well represented in the local programming broadcast by the station, both as hosts of the program as well as guests being interviewed. The moderator of

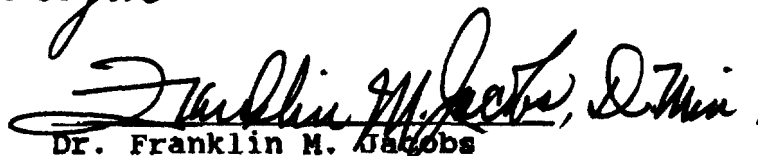
the "Feedback" program on which I appeared was a local African-American. During most of my appearances on "Praise the Lord--South Florida" the moderators were an African-American husband and wife team. Since minority group members are given such a prominent place in the station's local programming they seem to have a greater sense of involvement in what's going on at the station since they are so obviously, so to speak, being brought into the inner circle.

13. Channel 45 programs often include representatives of the Haitian communities, and the various Hispanic communities, and regularly deal with issues in the minority community. I believe the station makes a conscious and successful effort to celebrate the diversity and beauty of all of God's children, and to stress the areas in which the various races and ethnic groups have cooperated successfully.

SUPPORTING DECLARATION

I, Dr. Franklin M. Jacobs, hereby declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Florida and the United States of America that the forgoing "Declaration of Dr. Franklin M. Jacobs," consisting of six (6) pages, is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Executed this 4 day of August, 1993.


Dr. Franklin M. Jacobs

